

STUDENT MEETING ON NOVEMBER 4

ON SATURDAY AFTERNOON, November 4, Student Members of the Academy will meet in Room 214, Simson African Hall, at 2:00 o'clock. Dr. Robert C. Miller will speak on the subject, "The Pacific Ocean." The lecture will be illustrated with lantern slides showing various phases of oceanographic work, and with a motion picture film entitled, "Wealth of the Sea."

Everyone interested is invited to attend.

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CALIFORNIA VALLEY COYOTE GROUP IN NORTH AMERICAN HALL

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November Announcement

THE REGULAR NOVEMBER MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held in the Auditorium of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, 245 Market Street, on Wednesday evening, November 1, at eight o'clock. Following a brief business meeting, the second of the autumn series of lectures on the Walter B. Scaife Foundation will be given by Mrs. Irene D. Paden, who will take as her subject:

THE WAKE OF THE PRAIRIE SCHOONER

MANY READERS will recognize this as the subject of a distinguished book written by Mrs. Paden, and published in 1943 by the Macmillan Company. Professor Herbert E. Bolton of the University of California, has written:

Other books have been written about the overland trails from the Mississippi Valley to Oregon and California. But this one is different. As no other book on the subject has done, it makes the past come alive. Persons who read it will be eager to be on their way to see what the Padens have seen and to do some of the things which the Padens have done.

"The Wake of the Prairie Schooner" is not only interesting but thoroughly sound. Every page bubbles with human emotion evoked by the author's sympathetic interpretation of old documents and her examination of surviving vestiges left by wayfarers along the trail. The Padens—for it has been a family enterprise—have spent years of eager research in preparation for their work, unearthing scores of overland diaries hitherto in hiding. They have supplemented this indoor study by many exciting summers of exploration in order to relive the experiences of the pioneer wayfarers on these historic travel routes. They are veterans in outdoor life and have a pioneer's instinct for "sign," as I know from having been with them on other trails.

Retracing the overland routes segment by segment, the Padens have reconstructed them with an accuracy never previously achieved. There were not only main trails but also many cutoffs. All these have been identified, retraced, and put on the excellent maps with which the book is equipped. Through their thorough research and their minute reconnoissances, they have made many corrections and additions to all former maps of these overland routes.

In her lecture before the Academy Mrs. Paden will describe in particular the methods used by herself and her husband in hunting out and following the emigrant trails, and the background of field-work and research that preceded publication of the book. The public is cordially invited to hear Mrs. Paden.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

NOTICE is hereby given to all Corporate Members that the Council at its meeting on October 19, 1944, approved the applications of Dr. Walter W. Greulich, Dr. Leo F. Hadsall, Miss Alice S. Mulford and Mrs. A. C. Pehrson for MEMBERSHIP, and of Mr. Thomas Reid for STUDENT MEMBERSHIP in the California Academy of Sciences. If no objection to the election of these applicants be received at the office of the Academy within two weeks after October 27, they will be considered elected.



THE CALIFORNIA VALLEY COYOTE

THE COYOTE, in its various forms, ranges throughout the United States west of the Mississippi River and from Mexico to Canada. In California four subspecies are recognized. The one depicted on page one occurs west of the Sierra Nevada and south to the Mexican line. It is still plentiful in many sections of its range.

The animals in this group were obtained in Moraga Valley, just east of Berkeley, California. Mount Diablo is seen in the background.

The coyote is sometimes destructive to sheep, young pigs and poultry. However, as Dr. A. K. Fisher states, "It may be wise to encourage coyotes and bobcats within certain limits, provided poultry and sheep are properly protected at night. Numerous ranchmen and fruitgrowers have learned by experience that these animals, if unmolested, will free their premises from rabbits and other crop or tree destroyers. Where coyotes have been allowed to do their work thoroughly they are fully appreciated, and many ranchers would almost as soon shoot their own dogs and cats as their wild benefactors."

Throughout much of its range, therefore, it is highly beneficial in keeping in check rodent populations. Ground squirrels, rabbits, rats, mice and occasionally birds, insects and berries form the principal natural items of food for coyotes.

In the colder parts of its range the coyote develops a good coat of fur, and the pelts have a fair commercial value.

The group was prepared under the direction of John Rowley. The background was painted by Maurice G. Logan.



DR. CHAPMAN RETURNS FROM OVERSEAS

DR. WILBERT M. CHAPMAN, Curator of Fishes in the California Academy of Sciences, has returned to the Academy following a year of work overseas for the Foreign Economic Administration of the United States Government.